

Can. *Norwood, Wesley C. R. Ball*  
Paris

THE  
THERAPEUTICAL POWERS  
AND  
PROPERTIES  
OF  
VERATRUM VIRIDE,

BY  
WESLEY C. NORWOOD, M. D.,

OF CORESBURY, S. C.

IF GOOD IN THE PAST WHY NOT NOW?

SEVENTH EDITION.

LYMAN BROS. & CO.,  
Toronto, or Montreal,  
SOLE AGENTS FOR CANADA.

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## ADVERTISEMENT.

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Having frequently visited the Laboratory and Botanic Gardens of the Shakers, at New Lebanon, Columbia County, New York, I can unhesitatingly recommend their Preparations, as the most pure and reliable Medicines manufactured in the country, as they spare no pains in doing their work on the most scientific and Pharmaceutical principles. Just such articles as the Practitioner wants to ensure him success in his Professional treatment; and as such I recommend them to the Medical Faculty.

W. C. NORWOOD, M. D.  
Cokesbury, South Carolina.

# NORWOOD

ON THE

## THERAPEUTICAL POWERS

OF

### VERATRUM VIRIDE.

A few words by way of introduction before we enter upon our subject. No remedy of great and lasting value to the profession has ever made its entrance into favor only through the crucible of rigid observation and investigation before they award to it its proper place and position. We rejoice that this is so, for when it has once passed this fiery ordeal of an enlightened and honorable profession, its honors and its trophies are then all its own, and no envious or wanton hand can dim, much less pluck a single star that studs its garland secure in the temple of fame. But it stands forever out of reach of that envy and malice which would draggle in the dust and make as mean and base a coin as they themselves are. As to "quackery and patents," and that we "certainly cannot die of any ordinary disease, so long as a supply of tincture of Veratrum Viride can be obtained" we shall not waste a moment's time, and, as before stated, we have staked our all, reputation, and veracity as a physician, on the powers, effects and uses of this agent or remedy, and we willingly abide the decision and judgment of our seniors or superiors in intellect, whether old or young; and if it sinks to quackery and infamy, we sink with it. But if, as a remedy it stands, like "Saul of Tarsus a head and shoulders above its fellows," why should we be slain for speaking its praise and placing in the hands of every physician in the United States of America, the testimonials of its mighty triumphs over disease and death, and placing within their reach a tincture pure and reliable, and in addition ample directions and abundant evidence of its powers, and the diseases in which it has been used, so that those using for the first time cannot err, and those who have hitherto faltered and doubted may be induced to take hold with confidence. It will not be long till circular and label will be unnecessary, as it will soon be taught in every private and public school and college of medicine what its powers, uses and doses are. And so long as received at our hands, the profession shall be supplied with that on which they can confidently rely.

Powers and Properties of Veratrum Viride, or American Hellebore. The first power or property we shall notice is that it is acrid, producing a peculiar warm and biting sensation in the mouth and fauces, which remains long after chewing. It is very active, strenutatory, exciting rapid and almost continued sneezing when the least quantity of the powdered root is applied to the nostrils. It is also rubefacient producing burning and redness when the tincture is applied to the surface, thereby often relieving pain. The above named powers are prominent of the kind, but not important like the following: It is a certain and valuable emetic. The vomiting being full and free, with frequently little or no retching. The liver is excited and bile is freely thrown off during the second or third effort at vomiting. As an emetic it is valuable in croup, asthma, whooping cough, scarlet fever, etc. As a diaphoretic it is, without doubt, the most efficient of any yet known, acting from the mere softening and relaxation of the skin, to the most free and profuse perspiration indicated in all febrile and inflammatory cases where the surface is

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hot and dry. It is adanagic, alterative or ueobatruent, not only equally but far surpassing Iodine and mercury. This power or property renders it peculiarly valuable in phthisis, pulmonalis, scirrhus, cancer, and glandular affections generally. We will notice in this connection that Prof. Frost of South Carolina has used it with much benefit in cancer and epilepsy, and considers it a valuable remedy in many chronic diseases. His paper on *Veratrum Viride* was read before and published by the Medical Society of Charleston, S. C. It is expectorant, so much so that we rely almost alone on it. It is nervine, not narcotic. We could never perceive any narcotic effects in our patients, or ourselves, and we have taken it more than twenty times in minimum and emetic doses. It is not cathartic by any means. It is a great promoter of appetite when given in small doses from three to four times in the day. But the greatest and most valuable power, and that which so emphatically distinguishes it from, and gives such pre-eminence over all other agents or remedies, is its power to control the actions of the heart and arteries when morbidly excited, that it never fails to strike with perfect astonishment all who have ever witnessed this wonderful effect; and they have confessed that it far exceeded any representations ever given, and their most sanguine expectations. Neither is it in the power of man to describe it so as to enable any one to form a just conception of the result, who has never witnessed its effects. Indeed no man can have any idea of the effect who has not witnessed the fact. Who that is alive to the best interests of suffering humanity can fail to appreciate its usefulness? But who with the most towering intellect can comprehend the extent of the benefits and power of an agent or remedy capable, in from six to twenty hours of reducing a pulse from 130, 140 or 160, down to from 50 to 60 and 70 beats per minute, and calming and composing all the tumultuous actions of the heart and arteries? We have noticed quite a number of powers or effects following the use of *Veratrum Viride*, and we have noticed them on account of their being prominent and striking. We believe that many of the operative effects are indirect, not primary. The primary and independent powers or effects on the system when given internally, we consider to be three, perhaps four, namely: first as a promoter of appetite and digestion in small and repeated doses; secondly, its emetic powers are not essential and necessary to the first primary power named, neither is it necessary nor required to obtain the third primary power—the control of the vascular system or heart and arteries. We can regulate the action or pulsation of heart and arteries, or morbid vascular action without exciting the least degree of nausea or inconvenience to the patient. We notice a few effects that occasionally occur when given so as to produce nausea and vomiting. In hysterical and very excitable patients it produces a strangling and suffocating sensation resembling globus hystericus. It often excites great coolness of the surface, sometimes icy coldness, and in either case more or less paleness. These last symptoms, in connection with the above, often alarm the friends, bystanders, patients and even physicians who are unacquainted with the occurrence of such effects, and are not expecting them.

Diseases in which we have used, and for which we can confidently recommend *Veratrum Viride*. We rely on it as the remedy in Typhoid Fever, and administer it with every assurance of success. We put the patient on a free use of it at once, and press it till every symptom is controlled or arrested. Our plan is to reduce the pulse between 55 and 75 beats, and keep it at the desired point night and day. In severe cases it should be reduced, at least to natural standard, if not below it. By this kind of reduction the febrile and inflammatory symptoms are arrested or vanish and the patient is kept quiet and tranquil and comfortable. A great many fail of success by not reducing the number of pulsations sufficiently, or by sus-

pending the use of the remedy before the disease is fully routed out. It is out of the question, more, it is utterly impossible, for febrile and inflammatory action to exist and continue their ravages to any extent, and for any great length of time when the pulse is kept at 60 or 65 beats, or even less. We have kept it for days at from 42 to 45 and 50, with success. In typhoid fever, if we should meet with a case in which the fur on the tongue was yellow and bitterish taste in the mouth we would press the remedy to vomiting. In many cases after the pulse is reduced, and the quantity of tincture lessened, we find a tendency for the pulse to quicken a few beats in the afternoon, and the skin to be rather warm and dry, and more or less thirst. We have made it a point to increase the dose one or two drops for a few evenings, so as to anticipate and prevent this effort at an exacerbation. In pneumonitis we consider *Veratrum Viride* as much of a specific as we do sulphate of quinine in the intermittent fever. When the case is severe we give the patient six or eight drops of the tincture, with the same quantity of syrup of squills, in a little water, and increase till vascular excitement is controlled or free emesis takes place. The pulse will then be found reduced, febrile symptoms subdued, and pain relieved. There is a variety of pneumonitis in which there is yellow fur on the tongue, bitterish taste in the mouth, pain under scapula or clavicle, the matter expectorated, yellow and tenacious, resembling melted sulphur. In this sort of cases one or two full portions of calomel should be given, say twenty grains, or your patient will convalesce very slowly and recovery will be imperfect. These cases are very liable to be troubled with hiccough when not properly treated. We have met with cases where the patient had been purged with ordinary portions of calomel and opium, or Dover's Powders, till badly salivated, accompanied with the above symptoms and uninterrupted hiccough. However bad the salivation, calomel should be given in doses of twenty grains, and repeated in from four to six hours if the first dose should fail to arrest the hiccough. Calomel is the remedy for the above cases; the febrile symptoms should be kept subdued by *Veratrum Viride*, and your patient will soon be well. We have treated the above diseases more at length than we shall the following. As the method laid down for the above will afford a key to its management in all other cases. We have used it with unfailing success in orchitis or metastasis to the testicles in mumps, not failing in a single instance to relieve the pain and febrile symptoms in less than fifteen hours. In asthma, whooping cough, croup, measles and scarlet fever, we have used it with the most favorable results. In scarlet fever we use it in combination with diuretics, and find it superior to all other remedies we have ever tried, obviating much if not all tendency to dropsy. We find it to rob puerperal fever of its terrors, and to save from death many that could not be relieved by any other remedies. Why should it not succeed in this fearful disease? How is it possible for inflammation to keep up and advance when the action of the heart and arteries are kept at the natural standard, if not below. In the fearful, alarming and rapid diseases the pulse should be kept as far below the natural standard as possible, and the patient be kept perfectly quiet and still. But farther inflammation has its seat in the capillary system. Where the pulse is kept slow, the surface cool and pale the capillaries become emptied, and the blood flows quietly and gently through the large vessels or mere canals of the system. The capillaries are the seat of all vitiated and morbid secretions, and the great sympathetic nerve controls the actions of the organs of involuntary motion; the secretions are governed by that great system of nerves, by holding the heart in obedience, the chief organ and instrument of action in the vascular system, you have the destiny of your patient in your own hands. In acute pneumonia, so soon as vomiting is excited we found the symptoms readily relieved.



and by continuing the tincture in less doses for some days after the cures were effected. Drs. Terry, of Georgetown, Ga., and Shepard, of Eufaula, Alabama, have confirmed our own experience by their success and testimony. We have used it with success in a case of inveterate dysmenorrhea which had resisted all other remedies for years. The Memphis Medical Record reports a like success. It has been used in cancer, epilepsy, and palpitation of the heart, with great relief from suffering. In gout and rheumatism it promises much from the limited trial we have made. We should by no means omit to state its great value in Mania, Mammary inflammation and diseases of the heart, and convulsions in children accompanied with high febrile excitement. We should attempt the cure of yellow fever by the same method. We feel confident, that by using *Veratrum Viride*, or *Green Hellebore*, freely and perseveringly the first twenty-four hours that this fearful scourge would fail for want of fuel. We would keep the vascular system, the heart in particular, curbed and under full check and prevent that rapid expenditure of vital power and energy resulting from rapid and violent arterial action.

Our own method of testing a remedy with which we are not familiar is this. We first select a case that is moderate, in which a few hours will not matter; we then withdraw all other remedies and give the one we wish to test carefully and alone; by this means we learn the powers of the new remedy alone, and without detriment to the patient. The most usual way in which remedies are tested is to defer their use until all others fail, and there is no prospect of success with any remedy. Then in the last resort, the new remedy is tested; if it succeeds it is all and everything; if it fails it is worse than useless, so that whether success or failure attend, it affords but little information to the person using it, for the powers and properties, and doses of remedies are never to be learned by their use in extreme cases. Again, as a general rule, too much is expected from a new remedy, and men seem to forget that all remedies occasionally fail.

Authorities confirming the sedative powers of *Veratrum Viride* over the heart and arteries. Professors Frost of Charleston, S. C., Woodton of Alabama, Nott of New Orleans, and Winston of Nashville, Tennessee, etc. Drs. Anthony, Wilson, O'Keef, Barr, Summer, Wilburn. These have all published their articles in the Medical Journals of the day, and are in the hands of the profession. The State Medical Society of Indiana, in its proceedings has taken notice of the great value of our Tincture. We quote from its transactions in May, 1857; the Committee reported through Dr. Jameson. Dr. Jameson remarks: "Few articles of the *Materia Medica* are at present more the subject of thought and discussion among medical men, particularly in the south and west, than *Veratrum Viride*." He continues: "About six or seven years ago the attention of medical men, was again called to this remedy by Dr. W. C. Norwood of Cokesbury, S. C. Since which time few remedies have so speedily attained such pre-eminence—not so much in books and journals, as in the unwritten *Materia Medica* of the practical physician." The doctor then proceeds, and in the sequel states its value in typhoid fever, pneumonia, and puerperal fever.

We quote further, and from the address of the President of the State Medical Society of Indiana, Daniel Mecker, M. D., in speaking that they should meet "to discuss many of the numerous topics of medical science, and the various improvements which are being constantly made in surgery, chemistry and *materia medica*, and which are modifying the practice of medicine to a great degree." He then observes "for example, we have an arterial sedative, discovered in the American Hellebore, or *Veratrum Viride*, that has now taken the place of the lancet in almost all inflammatory diseases, and possesses a power over the circulation of the heart to that degree of certainty

never before possessed by any known agent of the materia medica." We add the following from Edward Meril, M. D., now of Louisiana. He writes thus: "The case of my father, Rev. T. A. Meril, D. D., of Middlebury, Vermont, is a very interesting one, and I may send you the details sometime. His disease was ossification of the semilunar valves of the aorta. He used V. V. with great benefit for some years, and it no doubt prolonged his life." Dr. G. T. Wilburn of Society Hill, Alabama, after describing to us the first case in which he used our Tincture, states as follows: "Since this first trial I have used it in not less than three hundred cases, in all the diseases to which this section is subject, and I now make the statement and defy contradiction, that it possesses a wider scope of therapeutical action—is a safe and more certain remedy than any other remedy now known to the profession. I know this is a broad assertion, but it is one based upon a considerable experience and a fair test of the remedy. I would that I had time to give you many cases in detail, particularly in typhoid fever, epilepsy, rheumatism, asthma, whooping cough, croup, measles, and more especially in puerperal fever—that monster of terrors—but I cannot do so. Suffice it for the present that I have used the Veratrum in all the above maladies with signal success. I think it due to you that I should write at least thus much as a duty of gratitude, for a remedy that I honestly believe has saved many from an untimely grave. I find none opposing the Veratrum except those who have never given it a fair trial."

The following is from Leman Galpin, M. D., Milan, Ohio, writing us in regard to our statement of its powers and cases reported: "I resolved to obtain the medicine. Just previous to my obtaining it I had some severe cases of mammary abscess. Desirous, if possible, of abridging the suffering consequent on this form of disease, I resolved should another opportunity offer, to test the curative qualities of the V. Viride. Soon after the medicine was obtained occurred the following case: Oct. 15, 1853, I was called to attend on a lady in her eighth parturition, and one whom I had not accouched before. Labor natural, and terminated in three or four hours after my arrival. Being about to leave she remarked that the worst was to come. After every confinement she has considerable trouble with the right breast. Indeed, after the one previous to this she had suffered everything but death, and added, that she would rather die than suffer so again. At the time to which reference is made she was under the Doctor's care for six months, had her breast lanced six times, and in consequence of the severe and protracted mammary inflammation became typhoid, and seemed apparently on the borders of the grave. At this juncture her relations were sent for, supposing she could not recover. After awhile she began to convalesce, and regained her usual health. On leaving my patient I gave her some general directions with the request if there were any apprehensions during the lacteal secretion, of suffering as before, that I might be notified. Three days after delivery her husband called and wished me to visit his wife. On examining the breast I found it distended to its utmost capacity. All the horrors and distress of her previous confinement were vividly before her mind. The babe would draw the milk freely from the other breast, but could get none from this. Neither could the milk be drawn out by any of the other appliances. Condition of the patient in addition to the swollen breast, great restlessness, tongue heavily coated, great thirst, pulse 120 beats per minute full and strong.

Treatment.—Topical application to the mamma, cabbage leaves thoroughly wilted; over which put a flannel wrung out of hot water, and cover with a wooden bowl after it had been put in hot water. Also renew, as often as they become cool. Tinct. of V. Viride, 5 drops every three hours, increasing one drop at every repetition unless the stomach should become disturbed and reject the medicine.



After two or three trials it was found that three drops was all she could bear. Soon after taking the first dose and every subsequent dose, she said she could feel the medicine clear to her fingers' ends. Pulse was reduced in eight hours to 70 beats, general perspiration, and after the expiration of 24 hours, the mammaury gland was evidently softer and smaller. Following this plan for six days, the breast was reduced to its natural size, and the patient discharged, and no trouble with it afterwards. No other medicine was used in this case except purgation twice with saline cathartics. Another case showing still more clearly the effects this medicine has upon the absorbent system. In 1854, a lady whose mother died from the effects of cancer in the breast, had for nearly a year, and soon after weaning her child, detected a hard tumor near the nipple, the identical spot where her mother's began. Fearing the worst, she mentioned it to no one till the twinging pain troubled her so much that she could refrain no longer. When I saw it, it appeared to be about as large as a medium sized hen's egg, jagged, hard, and painful to the touch.

Treatment.—Avoid all irritation of the part, and use three drops of Tinct. V. Viride three times daily. In less than three months the tumor entirely disappeared, and no return of it since, though she is now nursing a baby which is about one year old. Perhaps, dear sir, I ought to state that I have tried the V. V. in pneumonia, inflammatory rheumatism, etc., with equal success. Although a stranger to you, allow me to congratulate you upon the discovery of this article and hope that \* \* \* as the benefits conferred upon suffering humanity.

We presume the profession will begin to think we have been pressing on their attention a much more important remedy than they at first supposed, when they read the following remarks:

Veratrum Viride as an arterial sedative, "a mutual paper made up of contributions from the members of the Middlesex East District Medical Society, Massachusetts, compiled for the society by Ephraim Cutter, M.D., of Woburn, Truman Rickard, M.D., of Woburn and Wm. Ingalls, M. D., of Winchester." It appears that the attention of the society was not called to it till in Nov., 1856. "Since that time they have been in the constant use of it, with results which they deem very important. Much valuable testimony has accumulated upon the pages of their note books, proving conclusively to their minds its reliability as an arterial sedative in most inflammatory affections."

"It is an interesting fact that it has already been subjected to a widely extended and close scrutiny—a scrutiny such as has seldom befallen any other article of the materia medica in so short a time, and that too, with results most pleasing and satisfactory. We question whether there is any one who has given it a fair trial, who does not regard it as worthy of taking its rank among the few therapeutical agents upon which physicians may place the strongest reliance, when contending with giant diseases."

"We derive three important conclusions which we desire strongly to impress upon the minds of all who may read this article." "It is reliable." "It is safe." "It is not a specific." We never claimed that it was a specific.

#### GENERAL EVIDENCE.

Dr. Ingalls: "In functional and organic diseases of the heart, in measles, scarlatina, pneumonia, typhoid fever, and other diseases and conditions of the system, attended with high arterial action, I have found the Veratrum Viride most valuable in combatting that particular symptom, and it need hardly be added that the headache, restlessness and other attendants upon an excited circulation, will almost always yield with that."

Dr. B. Cutter: "During the year and a half past I have used the

Veratrum many scores of times in various diseases by itself, and in conjunction with other remedies; and I am ready to acknowledge my satisfaction with its medical powers in general, and to admit that the longer I use it the better I am pleased with it."

Dr. Chapin, M. D., of Winchester: "Since the attention of this society was first called to the Veratrum Viride, some year and a half ago I have made very constant and frequent use of it in my practice, prescribing it in almost all cases where there was undue arterial excitement, and have at length come to rely upon it as quite indispensable."

Horace P. Wakefield, M. D., of Reading, "states that he has used the Veratrum Viride as an artificial sedative and that he has found it a reliable article, unless he was deceived by a series of remarkable coincidences. In every case he has found the pulse to come down. He deems the Veratrum Viride the most powerful arterial sedative with which he is acquainted, far superior in his experience to digitalis."

Dr. Rickard: "I have used the Veratrum Viride in many cases of which I have kept no notes, with results exceedingly satisfactory. In a few cases, when I began to use the article, I was disappointed in the results, as it did not come up to my expectations. But I am now satisfied that the cause of failure was the smallness of the doses. Of its value in controlling arterial excitement there can be no question."

Ephraim Cutter, M. D., "I am satisfied that Vertrum Viride is an arterial sedative having used it as many, if not more times than any other medicine. I do not rely on it to the exclusion of other well known and tried agents, but would look to it first." American Journal of the Medical Sciences, Oct. 1858.

Above we have given the general evidence, which is ample, satisfactory and convincing. The special evidence embraces thirty-four cases, among which are enumerated palpitation of the heart, measles, pneumonia, puerperal fever, organic affection of the heart, rheumatism, etc., etc. We are satisfied that the above evidence is sufficient to place the powers and properties we have claimed for Veratrum Viride beyond the shadow of a doubt; and we are greatly gratified that it has been proved not only palliative but curative in every disease in which we directed it, either from experience or analogy. Yellow fever not excepted. Professor Fener has published an article in the New Orleans Journal and Hospital Gazette attesting its great value in that fearful scourge. Drs. White and Ford, of Charleston have published their use of it in more than one hundred cases. Dr. White states that he has reduced the pulse from 130 down to 60, in six hours or less, so that in this very disease in which there was an effort made to render us ridiculous, if not odious, to the medical public, testimony of the highest character attests its great value and success in yellow fever.

#### SURGERY.

We published the following in the Southern Medical and Surgical Journal, Jan. No. 1852, published at Augusta, Georgia: In traumatic lesions we have tested its powers sufficiently to warrant us in asserting that it will control and regulate any arterial excitement. We fully tested that fact in the New York emigrant's hospital. Who can calculate its value and importance, by the ease and certainty with which it controls and subdues high arterial excitement after capital operations? How many cases run down and perish from high sanguineous excitement alone, without any other appreciable cause after well executed operations? We feel confident in the above that we can offer the surgeon a remedy that will quiet his fears and remove his apprehensions in such cases and that he can control at will

inflammation, arterial and general sanguineous excitement, that so often supervene and defeat the successful result of the most skillfully executed operations in surgery. Every surgeon and physician should with care read the following remarks of Dr. H. H. Tolend, one of the first surgeons and physicians of the present age. His article appeared in the *Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal*, March 1858. It may also be found in the *American Journal of Medical Sciences*, October, 1858. "Although *Veratrum* (Viride) "is useful to the physician, to the surgeon it is indispensable. In traumatic fever, resulting either from injuries or surgical operations, its specific effect is more readily produced; a few doses will reduce the pulse even, when greatly accelerated to the healthy standard at which it can easily be retained until the cause subsides."

"After an operation for aneurism of any of the large arteries the action of the heart can be easily controlled, by which the danger of secondary hemorrhage is greatly diminished. Instead of being compelled to resort to venesection to diminish vascular action which necessarily interferes in a greater or less degree with the restorative process, the effect can be produced and maintained until the irritation resulting from the wound subsides, and the system accommodates itself to the derangement of the circulation necessarily resulting from the obliteration of a large arterial trunk."

"Although it may be supposed that I place too high an estimate upon the virtues of *Veratrum* (Viride), "I know I have written nothing but what has been observed, and nothing more than justice to the remedy and a duty I owe to the profession requires. It is useful in the treatment of miasmatic and typhoid fevers and invaluable in the management of traumatic fever, rheumatism—both acute and chronic—and active hemorrhage."

"In one of the most obstinate and protracted cases of uterine hemorrhage that I have ever treated, after every other remedy had failed, the *Veratrum* was administered alone, and the disease was not only controlled but permanently cured."

"*Hoemopaptysis* accompanied with increased arterial action is arrested more speedily and effectually by this article, than by any combination of remedies that have heretofore been prescribed."

"Having administered it alone in one of the most painful and unmanageable of the curable diseases incident to the country, rheumatism particularly, in the acute stage, I have found it more efficacious than any remedy that has heretofore been employed; besides controlling it relieves pain and is more decidedly diuretic than even *Colchium*."

Again, "invaluable in pneumonia pleuretis and catarrhal fever, after moderate depletion, and especially applicable to the treatment of these diseases in children, the pulse being diminished from fifty to seventy-five beats in the minute in ten or twelve hours, without either nausea or any other unpleasant symptom being produced. Upon adults it acts powerfully, and its effects are as speedily produced, and the pulse may be reduced to thirty-five without either distress or danger."

#### DYSMENNORRHEA.

In the treatment of chronical affections we believe there is a prevalent error with the profession which we believe to be this, namely, the doses are too large, too nearly the quantity given in acute cases. We have treated *Dysmennorrhoea* which has existed for years with entire success, with two drops of our tincture of *V. Viride* from three to four times in the day, increasing the dose one drop every week until the dose reaches from four to five drops, if the stomach will retain that quantity without the least inconvenience. We have not had to continue it so long as three months in a single instance. We have not met with a single case of suppressed men-

stration that a similar treatment has failed. If the patient is feeble and pale, we add two parts of our tincture of *V. Viride* to six parts tincture of *Cantharides*, beginning with eight drops and increasing the dose two drops at the end of every week until the dose reaches from fourteen to sixteen drops, leaving off the increase but continuing the remedy. The tincture of the *Cantharides* we use is made by adding double the quantity of *Cantharides* directed by the Dispensatory, (U. S.) to Alcohol. We would treat scrofula, schirrous tumors, periodical or sick headache, (as it is often called;) epilepsy, chronic chorea, mania, chronic hemorrhage from the uterus, on the above method.

#### ERYSIPELAS OR ERYTHEMA AND LEUCORRHOEA.

In many cases of periodical erysipelas, more properly erythema, and which is often very annoying to the patient, we have treated with perfect success with tincture of *Colchium*. Our method of preparing has already been given under a previous head. We begin with from ten to fifteen drops, and increase gradually every dose given so as to produce whitish frothy operations in from thirty-six to forty-eight hours, as the urgency of the case may demand. After purging freely, reduce the quantity so as to fall short of nausea or purging. We give from three to four portions daily. We are confident that *Colchium* is a valuable remedy in cutaneous diseases, much more so than the preparations of arsenic. Our first idea of its value in cutaneous diseases was originated by two young men drinking, through mistake, the wine of *Colchium* for wine, the hair, etc., all falling off. Our confidence was strengthened from the fact that we considered it a chylagogue cathartic operating primarily on the chyliferous organs; as in most cases of acute rheumatism it fails utterly to afford relief till whitish frothy operations are produced, which are often followed with immediate relief. The importance of *Colchicum* as a radical agent is far underrated.

In *Leucorrhoea*, we have found no remedy or combination of remedies succeed so constantly, as a combination of a tincture of *Ergot* and tincture of *Cantharides*. Indeed, we have had that peculiar sensation of dragging or bearing down, and those peculiar feelings of uneasiness or weariness, give way in the region of the loins after a free and continued gradual increase of the above mixture. Croup, when not relieved by a free use of emetics, we waste no further time, but give a child from two to five years of age, from forty to fifty grains of *Calomel*, and await the result. In a large number of cases it will require a portion of oil to carry it off in the course of twelve hours. Large doses of *Calomel* appear to operate on the great sympathetic nerve that controls and governs the secretions, and are slow to purge, if they purge at all. Small doses of *Calomel* appear to act on the sensitive or motor nerves of the intestinal canal, pass off rapidly by catharsis, and afford but little relief in the treatment and cure of disease; whereas the large doses change the secretions and counteract diseased action.

The proof of our position may be inferred from the fact that when small portions of *Calomel* are used in syphilis or for the purpose of producing pyalism, the purgative effects of *Calomel* in acute diseases, or even chronic, by giving in small or purgative doses which irritate and coincide with and aggravate the already existing diseased or morbid action, rather than large portions which change the secretions, thereby counteracting and overcoming pathological states or conditions.

#### CONCLUSION.

If we considered it necessary we could add more than two hundred pages to our circular, if we were to publish the numerous let-

ters that have been sent us from time to time by physicians with whom we have no personal acquaintance, testifying to the great powers of *Veratrum Viride*. As before observed, out of the great deference that we have for Professor Wood's opinion, of Philadelphia, we have reduced the dose as it stands on the bottle, knowing that his enlarged experience and talent and learning entitle his opinion to the highest consideration. We might also add the name of the distinguished Prof. H. Dickson, who has been called from his native State, S. C., to fill the chair of Theory and Practice in Jefferson College, Philadelphia. The favor and opinions of such men will forever secure and give confidence to all to give it a trial in those "Giant Diseases" if no other, that have hitherto baffled the powers of all other remedies.

W. C. NORWOOD.

(Opinions of Drs. Riley and Renwick.)

We would very respectfully call the attention of the public generally, and of the Medical Profession more particularly, to an article of the *Materia Medica* which has very recently been brought into notice; and its remedial powers more fully discovered by Dr. Wesley C. Norwood, a very intelligent and skillful Physician of Cokesbury, Abbeville District, South Carolina. We have used the remedy extensively in our practice for the last three months, and consider it the most important discovery which has been made, in this branch of medicine, for the last half century. It is, in truth, the great desideratum of the Medical Profession. It is in febrile diseases, whether idiopathic or symptomatic, where there is high inflammatory excitement of the circulatory system, what Quinine is in bilious, remittent and intermittent fever, a certain and reliable specific. It will control the action of the heart and arteries, however inordinate or abnormal they may be—hence it is a remedy of incalculable importance in all inflammatory fevers. In typhoid and typhus fevers, in pneumonia typhoides, in asthma, whooping cough, in mumps, where the disease has been translated, we have used it with the happiest effects. At a time like the present year has been, when the pestilence that walketh in darkness has exerted its heart-rending and disastrous influences in the destruction of the lives of the wise the virtuous, and the good of the land, a remedy which exerts such unrivalled influence in arresting the maddened attacks of the fell destroyer is more than armies to the public good; and the Physician who has employed time, talent and fortune in the discovery of so potent a remedy deserves the heartfelt acknowledgments of a generous public, and at the hands of the Medical Profession a monument to his memory more lasting than brass.

La Grange, Ga.

R. A. T. RIDLEY, M. D.  
NATHAN RENWICK, M. D.

#### THE THERAPEUTIC VALUE OF *VERATRUM VIRIDE*.

By Milton P. Creel, M. D.,

Surgeon I. C. Railway, Surgeon L. & N. R. R., Member National Association Railway Surgeons, Member American Medical Association, Member Mississippi Valley Medical Association, Member Tri-State Medical Society, Member Kentucky State Medical Society, Secretary Muhlenberg Co. Board of Health, Referee for Muhlenberg Co. for Kentucky State Board of Health, Member U. S. Board Pension Examiners, Member Southern Kentucky Medical Society, etc., etc.

Central City, Kentucky.

In this era of therapeutic progress I fear it is possible for us to forget the value of some of the old time therapeutic agents which have found favor with the ablest clinicians of the century. The search for cures in serums, and antitoxines, have led us too often, I

think, to forget the curative powers of many drugs which possess the greatest value as therapeutic agents.

*Veratrum viride* has maintained its hold on professional favor for a long time. This of itself is sufficient to prove to us that its merits as a drug are such that it cannot be displaced.

Before taking up the therapeutic powers of *veratrum viride*, let me say that it is most important to employ only the Norwood preparation.

The drug gained its reputation as a therapeutic agent by the employment of the preparation made in accordance with the original methods of Dr. Norwood. Made by the Norwood method it is an entirely non-toxic agent, and we can feel sure of getting positive results. I use the Norwood *veratrum viride* made by the Shaker Society of Mount Lebanon, N. Y. This is made in accordance with the original Norwood plan and will not prove disappointing as many preparations of *veratrum viride* do, which are bought in the drug store.

In headache, due to cerebral congestion, from exposure to the sun's rays there is no agent which acts more happily than *veratrum viride*—Norwood. In these cases five drops every hour, or every half hour will produce results which are speedy and satisfactory.

In hypertrophy of the heart, and irritable heart where the pulse beat is very quick or small the action of *veratrum viride* is most satisfactory. It slows the heart by its regulating action, and this is accomplished without weakening or depressing the heart.

In Bright's disease where there is abnormal tension of the arteries it is of great value. In aneurism, together with correct diet and rest *veratrum* is a most valuable agent. It favors coagulation of the blood and diminishes the pressure.

In exophthalmic goitre, many of the ablest German observers have found *veratrum viride* worthy of confidence. It will be seen that *veratrum viride* in its physiological action is antagonistic to the symptoms of exophthalmic goitre, and is therefore rationally a remedy.

It has long been a favorite with practitioners as a remedy for pneumonia, pleurisy and affections of that class. Some of the ablest physicians will readily tell us that they could not get along in these diseases without *veratrum*. It is claimed by some good observers that taken in doses of ten to fifteen minims every two hours or oftener, that it will reduce the temperature and pulse, and that after this the disease will be very mild. Often when given at the very incipency of an attack it will abate the disease entirely.

In hemorrhages and plethoric conditions it has been employed with a large degree of success. In acute rheumatism it very often brings good results, especially when there is a very rapid tense pulse.

In typhoid fever, I rarely ever exhibit *veratrum* unless I have cerebral congestion of an active character to contend with. In puerperal convulsions it can be said that no agent is so much relied upon as *veratrum viride*. In fact no eminent obstetrician can be found now who would lay aside *veratrum viride* for such old time measures as bleeding, the nerve sedatives, active purgation and such other measures. It should be given in these cases in doses of a half drachm and repeated every half hour or hour until the pulse becomes regular and slower, and the convulsions cease. After this the pulse must be watched and the remedy is to be given with such frequency as will keep this result secured. This will not be difficult, and an ordinary nurse who has the ability to count and estimate the character of the pulse will have no difficulty in carrying out the directions of the physician.

In acute tonsillitis given in doses of ten drops every hour, or with such frequency as will bring the pulse to the normal point and hold



it there for five or six hours, it is said to be an abortifacient. This is attested by many practitioners of ability.

Phillips has found it the best remedy in persistent priapism, it having brought about relief after the bromides, camphor and other remedies of that character had failed.

I must add that in works on therapeutics generally we are told that veratrum viride is nauseating. It will be found that this is not true of the pure Norwood preparation, which should be given preference in the prescriptions of the physicians. As made by the Shaker Society, the Norwood Veratrum viride is made from pure, carefully selected crude material and the original methods of Dr. Norwood are brought into requisition.

In the simple fevers of children, ephemeral fever, we will find no remedy which answers our demands so well as veratrum viride. In these cases quinine will very often do a great deal of harm by producing congestion of the brain. Veratrum, on the other hand, promptly relieves cerebral congestion, overcomes the fever, excites a mild action of the skin and disease persists only a short time. It is better to use veratrum viride in these cases than to give the coal tar products since they very often depress the heart.

In the eruptive fevers, measles scarlatina and small pox, very often veratrum viride will be oak and rock. In these affections we will very often encounter a rapid pulse attended with delirium. In cases of this character the action of the pure Norwood's Veratrum viride will be most beneficial. The skin will under its influences become moist, the pulse lowered and regular, while the cerebral symptoms will gradually subside, and the aspect of the patient will take on a more hopeful appearance.

I could give other uses to which this agent could be put, but regard for the patience of my readers will not allow me to go further.

#### RECOVERY FROM A CASE OF ECLAMPSIA.

(From Lancet, May 27, 1899.)

Howle reports a case of eclampsia, without premonitions, in a primipara eight months pregnant. Patient was in bad condition, stuporous, with high fever, cyanosis and pulmonary edema; pulse 120, small, feeble and irregular. Chloroform was given by inhalation, but convulsive seizures continued. Veratrum viride was then given hypodermically (10 minims), and the pulse improved somewhat. The os was then dilated manually, this being accomplished in sixty-five minutes, and a still-born child delivered by version, the placenta being expelled by Crede's method. The patient had no more convulsions, and recovered very slowly. She was found to have 12 parts per 1000 of dried albumen in the first urine passed after delivery. Resolution of the nephritis took place promptly. The postpartum treatment consisted of purgatives and salines, strict milk diet, and 10 minims tinct. verat. vir. with 5 grains caloral hydrate hourly. Recovery was permanent.

The case was remarkable because of the association of rigid os with chloroform narcosis, and because authorities generally regard the prognosis as hopeless when the symptom-complex is made up of high temperature, profound cyanosis, stupor, and pulmonary edema. Howle emphasizes the growing favor in which veratrum viride is held as a remedy for eclampsia.

#### SCIATICA.

Give three to six drops of Norwood's tincture of veratrum viride every three hours.—Medical Summary.

## THERAPEUTIC SUGGESTIONS.

(First Paper.)

By Edward E. Rothrock, M. D., Tennessee Colony, Texas.

## VERATRUM VIRIDE.

*Veratrum viride*, American hellebore, is a cardiac depressant and spinal paralyzant. It affects the respiration much less than aconite. An emeto-cathartic in small doses *veratrum* reduces the force of the pulse and if continued the pulse becomes slow, soft and compressible.

Toxic doses cause depression, nausea and vomiting; pulse very rapid, small, nearly imperceptible, skin cold, clammy, giddiness, impaired vision. It is seldom fatal; when death results from its use, it is caused by paralysis of the heart. In *veratrum* poisoning, morphine and atropine antagonise the cardiac depression. Alcohol, whiskey, ammonia, strong coffee, dry heat to the entire surface are also effective.

Its properties are emetic, cathartic, diaphoretic, expectorant, nerve, anti-spasmodic, arterial sedative, resolvent, febrifuge, and anodyne, employed in fevers, inflammations and derangements of the nervous system. We have used it in delirium tremens, mania, whooping cough, asthma, hysteria, cramps, convulsions, epilepsy, functional and organic diseases of the heart. In fact, when a stimulant is needed, than *veratrum* is indicated to stimulate the vital forces.

Fevers and inflammations of the severe type and of the most aggravated kind, yield to its healing virtues. It is invaluable in the treatment of pneumonia and puerperal fevers. In puerperal convulsions it is of great use, given in large doses, twenty to thirty drops. It is as nearly a specific in its actions as a remedy can be administered in all conditions of depression, where the respiration and pulse, action of the heart frequent and labored, are frequent, and heat of the body great. We can with *veratrum* hold the heart in bounds, regulate the entire vascular and nervous system. In fact, strengthen, regulate and equalize the entire circulatory and nervous energy.

It is a pure arterial sedative, and when used properly it is positive, certain, safe and efficient. In endocarditis, it acts with certainty, removing any obstruction to the circulation that is frequently caused by organized lymph-embolus. It acts on the nervous centers, arresting irritation and preventing determination of blood. It allays irritation of the sympathetic, and thus proves frequently sedative and increases secretion.

It is therefore of great service in diseases of the kidneys and bladder.

In fever where the pulse is full, fast and corded, given in doses of two drops every hour, it will allay the storm. If the pulse is fast and weak, then one to two drops every two or three hours will have a good effect in reducing the frequency and increasing the strength of the heart's action and circulation. We generally give one to two drops every hour, then every two or three hours, according to indication.

As an alternative it is par excellence, and in combination with iodide potash, stillingia, corydalis, or iris versicolor, as indicated, it is of great efficiency. It is a good alternative, given in small doses, one drop every three hours, and will frequently cure cutaneous diseases.

Used as a liniment in sprains, bruises or tumors, it is excellent; used in rheumatic enlargements of the joints, in eczema, etc., it has a curative effect, as a lotion with glycerine, externally applied to the parts; in erysipelas, it is a fine agent applied locally to the parts.

reducing the inflammation of the skin. In irritation of the urethra and enlargement of the prostate gland, given in small doses and applied locally, it will often act like a charm.

Veratrum is of use in every form of febrile exanthema, especially scarlatina, and in those cases of increased plasticity of the blood, a tendency to production of effusions and exudations. In rheumatic fever it subdues the fever and arrests those copious sweats that frequently arise from capillary congestion. Alternated with asclepias and cereus in this disease, it gives speedy relief.

Phytolacca, poke root, in combination with veratrum, acts well in rheumatism or erysipelas, administered internally and as a lotion; in the latter, given in small doses, two drops every three hours, has a decided curative effect. In diarrhea and dysentery it will frequently cure without any other agent, if given in small doses, two drops every two hours.

Veratrum is of great service in meningitis, phrenitis and cerebral difficulties generally.

With podophyllin or leptandrin, it acts fine where the liver is implicated in malarial fevers. In pneumonia pleuritis, croup, asthma and any disorder of the respiratory organs, veratrum, in conjunction with asclepin, ipecac and jaborandi, as indicated, will prove sure and positive in many cases.

It will subdue fever, relax spasm, equalize circulation, resolve the viscosity of the secretions, promote cutaneous expiration, cause diuresis and expectoration, acting on those nerves governing the expulsive power of the bronchi. Hence imparting tone to the venous, absorbent and sympathetic systems, imparting vitality and removing abnormal action. It is peculiarly useful in jaundice and dropsies. A valuable agent in atonic, mucous hemorrhoids and membranous formations in the intestinal canal. In phlegmatic troubles of abdominal cavities, veratrum has special affinity for the pelvic viscera; therefore, it is beneficial in amenorrhea, chlorosis, leucorrhoea, uterine or vaginal. Veratrum is contra-indicated in paralytic cases, hectic cases, hemorrhages or pregnancy.

#### MORPHINE VS. VERATRUM ET AL IN ECLAMPSIA.

Like invasions of cholera and la grippe the discussion of certain maladies recurs with commendable regularity. This will continue till investigation tires, or till every aspirant for reportorial honors has had his say.

A recent writer of unbounded enthusiasm affirms that there is but one remedy for puerperal eclampsia. Morphine is the one remedy.

Admittedly, morphine is esteemed by many as such a remedy. One has only to turn to the pages of our journal literature for the current year to learn that not only morphine, but veratrum, chloral and bleeding, respectively, is the remedy above all others.

This is as it should be. These agents divide the honors. Each writer exploits the remedy that has seemed to be the best in his hands. For our own part we like chloroform for the paroxysm, and believe there is nothing better.

To treat the interval we choose Norwood's tincture every time, given in small doses (say eight or ten drops) hypodermically. We believe 99 cases in 100 will yield, and are not much in doubt about results in the other one. But, we insist that the preparation of veratrum must be Norwood's tincture.

The reader perceives that we are enthusiastic. This is because our confidence is so great, and our confidence is so great because we have had such splendid success with our remedy.

Further, we believe that Norwood's possesses claims over other

remedies suggested that any one can prove who cares to take the trouble to investigate.

We believe it is an error to liken its results to the results of bleeding—they have nothing in common. The patient's condition after treatment by Norwood's is perhaps more natural and better than after treatment by any of the other proposed remedies.

### SOME USES OF VERATRUM VIRIDE.

By Benj. L. Simmons, M. D., Granville, Tenn.

Specific veratrum has a remarkably curative force when properly directed. It is not a "cure all," and its indications are not patented. It is not a proprietary article, but a pure, unadulterated preparation of veratrum viride. Like all other drugs, the intensity of its force must be reasonably measured. Like all other medicines, it is not digested, hence, not assimilated. Like all other medicinal agents, the intensity of its force is proportionate to the quantity administered, the quality remaining the same. Like all other drugs, it has no dual action. The full and frequent pulse, the full and bounding pulse, the full, frequent and hard pulse, the hard pulse, the hard and wiry pulse, the small and hard pulse, each as a rule demands the veratrum force. In croup, in meningitis, laryngitis, bronchitis, and pneumonia, the characteristic pulse being present, the veratrum force is eminently useful. Pneumonia in its first stage is oftentimes arrested by it. Chronic diseases with evident derangement of the sympathetic nerves should receive a graduated quantity of the veratrum force.

In phthisis, when great dyspnoea is present, and patient more or less cyanotic, veratrum, combined with quebracho, is indeed valuable.

Combined with specific ipecac and administered every fifteen minutes until slight nausea is produced, then less often, veratrum is a superior agent in active hemorrhage.

Puerperal eclampsia, epileptiform in nature, and not due to uraemia, is often arrested by a free use of veratrum hypodermically.

Irritation of the sympathetic nerves as marked by a tongue having a clean, dry streak through center of surface from base to tip, demands the use of veratrum.

In all acute diseases ending by crisis, veratrum, when indicated, is invaluable.

Combined with specific gelsemium, it reduces determination of blood to the brain when marked by a flushed face, bright eyes, and excited carotids. Superficial erysipelas, having the color of ordinary inflammation, is cured by internal and local use of veratrum.

Sprayed upon the tonsils, it will arrest tonsillitis in the stage of engorgement.

Locally, it is valuable in orchitis, mastitis, etc.

The suffering due to a bubo or a phlegmon is mitigated by a local use of it.

Ordinarily in acute lesions the dose will be the fraction of a drop; five to fifteen drops to water four ounces, a teaspoonful of the mixture every half to one hour.

Locally it should be applied undiluted.

(From the People's Medical Gazette, Abbersville, S. C.)

Our highly esteemed and talented friend Dr. W. C. Norwood, is about to make a tour through the United States, the ostensible object of which, is to locate agencies for the sale of his medicine, and more extensive dissemination of his invaluable discovery. The true qualities and vir-

tues of the Veratrum Viride. The Doctor's mission will be a blessing to hundreds and thousands, and we heartily wish him every success. His investigations upon the medicinal virtues of the Veratrum Viride to our knowledge, have been from the beginning, conducted with that calm and dispassionate energy and zeal that at once characterizes the medical philosopher, and the world owes him a debt of gratitude that it can never more than pay.

JOHN DAVIS, M. D.

Dear Sir—I find in experimenting with your Veratrum Viride, it is all in all things you have represented it, and is certainly the only arterial sedative on which we may at all times rely with certainty and the most valuable agent of this class in the whole materia medica.

Very truly,

WM. NEPHEW KING, M. D.

Dr. Norwood:

Columbus, Ga.

Dear Sir:—I left home for Macon, a few days after you. On my return found Dr. Boswell in full blast with the Veratrum Viride, visited his cases with him—have used it in a few cases myself, and in every case it was sure to reduce the pulse. I am well pleased with it as I anticipated, and as much so as any one remedy I ever used. I have no idea that you claim for it as much credit as it is entitled to. Four out of the six ounces have been used, and we will soon need more. I design extending its use in every case where there is too much arterial action, until I have fully tested whether there be a difference in its effects in different diseases.

S. A. BILLING, M. D.

Dr. Norwood:

Flat Shoals, Ga.

Sir—I avail myself of this opportunity for communicating to you the result of my experience in the use of the preparation of Veratrum Viride. . . . But I assure you that the V. Viride, as a curative far exceeds anything with which I am acquainted. I have given it in only two cases, and if it proves as successful in the future, I pronounce it a specific in the fullest acceptance of the term.

Case 1st. I was called to visit Mr. A. on the 5th inst. Found him laboring under a deep seated attack of pneumonia typhoides, he had great difficulty in breathing, intense headache, irritable stomach, skin hot and dry, pulse 165 to the minute. Commenced giving him the Veratrum Viride in five to ten drops. By the next day, at noon, his pulse was reduced to 85 per minute, skin moist and pleasant, cerebral disturbance removed. His recovery from the time forward was rapidly attained.

Case 2d. I was called to Mrs. J., whom I found laboring under palpitation of the heart; pulse 130; great anxiety manifested by the countenance, and, using her own language, "a sense of suffocation" experienced. Ordered the Veratrum Viride given in ten drop doses every three hours. The second dose produced free emesis, and with it an entire abatement of all distressing symptoms.

These two cases were treated with nothing else, save the Veratrum Viride, in order to test its powers in controlling the circulation. I would not take \$20 for the remnant left, (one ounce), placing the medicine out of my reach. I think, sir, you may safely stake your reputation, as a medical man, upon the virtues of your bantling. It is, indeed, the "philosopher's stone," and the "blessing of him who is ready to perish," will be bestowed upon you for the discovery.

Trusting that you may live long, to see the success of your medicine placed beyond the reach of envy or malice, I am, my dear Sir, your obedient servant,

J. J. C. BLACKBURN, M. D.

Dr. Norwood:

Milledgeville, Ga.

Dear Sir— \* \* \* I feel perfect freedom in assuring you that I do not know of any article of medicine which manifests itself as a reliable remedial agent in any kind of specific action, on particular parts of the human system, with half the certainty as your preparation Veratrum Viride does, in controlling inordinate action of the heart, under the varied form of febrile excitement. Calomel does not act with half the certainty in emulging the liver—nor does aloes in irritating the lower part of the rectum—nor does ergot of rye, in increasing parturient effort in labor, and, indeed, I might say, nor is tartrate of antimony more certain to produce emesis, nor is castor oil, nor any other purgative, more certain to produce catharsis.

How far your preparation acts, as a remedial agent, beyond the unparalleled and unequal control of the sanguiferous system, in the management of fevers of different types, and at different stages—or what its modus operandi in producing such effects as are distinctly evident to any observer of common sense, (physician or otherwise), and in seeming to produce very beneficial collateral effects from its use in very dangerous cases, at critical times, I am not prepared to say. My testimony, as a medical man of some experience, may, however, be briefly stated to be decidedly favorable to the use of said article, believing, as I do, that no physician can use it without regarding it as a very efficient article, and such an one in its specific control of the action of the heart in feverish excitement, fully meets our heretofore earnest desideratum. Digitalis succeeds in one case out of twenty perhaps—this preparation, in nineteen cases out of twenty, more certainly.

So much at present, in reference to my appreciation of the use of your preparation of Veratrum Viride, I know that I am sincere, and do not think that I am enthusiastic beyond a reliable matter of fact.

JOHN F. MORLAND, M. D.

Bainbridge, Ga.

Dear Sir—Since receiving the Veratrum Viride, I regret that I have had but one favorable opportunity of giving it a trial, in that, however, it succeeded beyond my most sanguine expectations. The case was one of pneumonia, complicated very decidedly with typhoid symptoms. The patient being four years old, and the pulse 130. I proceeded, after trying all other modes of treatment unavailingly for ten days, to give the tincture in common doses. The first was ejected as soon as swallowed, but was repeated instantaneously and was retained. The little patient now, becoming tranquil, and not anticipating any very sudden change, I suffered myself to engage in common fireside conversation for some thirty minutes, when my attention was attracted to my patient by the extreme pallor of his countenance, and upon examination found his pulse reduced to about 80, the skin bathed in perspiration, and, as far as one could judge, the disease gone and the patient sleeping sweetly. But in order to assure myself that these results were produced by the medicine and nothing else I withheld the second dose, and the result was that the fever rose again in eight hours. But a repetition of the remedy subdued it as promptly as before, and by continuing it at intervals of six hours, there was no return of the symptoms; thus conclusively showing that the favorable results obtained, could not be ascribed to the agency of any other article.

Yours, very respectfully,

E. R. RIDLEY, M. D.

Waynesboro, Burke Co., Ga.

Dear Sir—I had intended, as a matter of great gratitude, at an early day to write you an acknowledgment of your prompt kindness



in sending me a specimen of your tincture of American Hellebore, as well as to congratulate you upon your discovery of the controlling powers of that article over abnormal organic reaction. \* \* \* I am satisfied with the display of its magical powers, as presented for my consideration. I am satisfied that a great desideratum has been accomplished. I am proud of it as an achievement of American Medicine. I am proud of it, particularly as a triumph of Southern experiment and observation, and believe that it will weave for the brow of the discoverer a chaplet of green, and with the lancet, win a partition of empire in the domain of practical medicine. \* \* \* I will further and more familiarly say, that price shall be no bar to my keeping a supply in my office. I will never be without it if money can get it. Deprive me of it, and I verily believe I should "throw physic to the dogs." I still have a small portion of the specimen you sent. I intend to keep it until I am satisfied I can obtain a supply of equal purity and power. \* \* \* Dr. Montgomery requests me to say that he will be satisfied with the article—that it has furnished him with a number of beautiful cases and subject matter for a communication for the Journal; but he must plead laziness in extenuation of the omission. To use his emphatic language "Take it from me, sir, and I'd quit the practice of physic." Before you dispose of what you have on hand, root or tincture, I must get some. I must be sure it comes from your hand—I won't care what the price is.

I remain, E. L'ROY ANTHONY, M. D.

New York.

At the request of Dr. Norwood of South Carolina, in order to test the effects of the internal administration of the *Veratrum Viride* upon the circulation, I selected four cases in my wards, and ordered the tincture of the root to be prescribed as follows:

Case 1st. Adult female, extensive fissure of the anus and rectum, spasmodic contraction of the sphincter ani, with excessive pain; pulse 130. Dose five drops every three hours. Pulse reduced 68 in fifteen hours.

Case 2d. Adult male; morbus coxarius; pulse 99. Dose, from five to eight drops every three hours. Pulse reduced in twelve hours to 50 beats.

Case 3d. Adult male; articular rheumatism; pulse 120. Dose, from five to eight drops every three hours. Pulse reduced to 30 in fifteen hours.

Case 4th. Adult male the effects of the operation by excision for large sarcolated hydroceles of the tunica vaginalis on both sides; pulse 102. Dose, five drops every three hours. Reduction in ten hours to 60 beats.

I should have much confidence in the salutary action of the *Veratrum Viride* in cases of acceleration of the pulse in traumatic lesion of any of the vital organs, in patients of a robust constitution, or with sthenic diathesis.

J. M. CARNOCHAN, M. D.  
Surgeon of the New York Emigrants' Hospital.  
Prof. of Surgery in the N. Y. Med. College.

Columbia.

Dear Sir—In experimenting with the tincture handed me, (*Veratrum Viride*) I have been very much pleased with its controlling powers over the heart and arteries. I have only given it in typhus fever, and one of two cases of pneumonia. It certainly reduces the pulse without any of those immediate prostrating and alarming symptoms which take place after the continued use of digitalis; neither does it

irritate the mucus membrane of the bowels, as the salts of antimony do, when continued by days. I have given it in several cases of typhus, in which there was dry red tongue, great thirst, delirium, frequent defections from the bowels with soreness and distension of the abdomen, without the least aggravation of any of those disagreeable symptoms. I have not found it immediately to arrest the disease, or cut it short at once, after fully formed, but certainly to make it assume so mild a form as to require very little in the future treatment. I have, in several cases, broken up the forming stage of the disease, by keeping the heart below a natural and normal action for two or three days. In fact, I regard your tincture of every importance in the above diseases, and fully meeting the expectations of its warmest advocates. It certainly is the very article to fill the place (a thousand time better and safer) of tartar emetic in the contra-stimulant treatment of the "Italian school." \* \* \*

I remain yours, most truly,

SAMUEL FAIR, M. D.

Newbury Court House.

Dear Doctor—I have given the medicine you sent me, (Veratrum Viride) to two patients laboring under typhoid fever, with the best effect. In both cases the pulse was reduced from 120 and 140 to 70 beats in the minute; by giving from three to four doses, there was no return of fever afterwards. The medicine was continued five days in one case, and seven or eight in the other. I was sent for two weeks ago to visit a patient in consultation with an eminent physician, laboring under pneumonitis. I saw her on the ninth day of her attack—her physician had used all the remedies usual in such cases—she seemed to grow worse. When I was called in, he said he had no hope of her recovery—all the symptoms were unfavorable, I proposed giving Dr. Norwood's medicine, as I called it; he smiled, and said he was afraid it was a humbug, but consented, as he considered the case hopeless. We gave her (a young lady fifteen or sixteen years old) five drops; increased one drop each dose until we gave eight drops to the dose. It produced nausea of the stomach by this time; her pulse was reduced from 120 to 88 beats in the minute. Her physician remained with her during the night; he stopped giving the medicine. The next morning I saw her again and found her with a pulse of 110 beats in the minute. I asked the doctor if he had discontinued the medicine; he said he had. We commenced giving it again, in eight drop doses; by the third dose her pulse was reduced to 74 beats in the minute; said she felt much better. The doctor discontinued the medicine again for eight or ten hours to see the effect. The pulse rose again to 109 or 110 beats in the minute. We resumed the medicine again; about the third dose the pulse was reduced to 60. We kept it from 70 to 74 beats for several days, some six or seven. She is now convalescent. I will say to you, however, that the doctor has sent to me a second time for a small vial of the medicine, as he is giving it to some two or three cases of typhoid fever, and says he is very much pleased with its effects.

Your friend,

J. B. RUFF, M. D.

Oglethorpe, Ga.

My Dear Sir—Please pardon me for not giving you, earlier, the result of my experience in the use of the Veratrum Viride. I can truly say that I have never found any remedy that produced its specific effects so certainly in my hands—it has never failed. I have used it in scarlet fever, pneumonia, typhoid pneumonia, typhoid fever, inflammatory rheumatism, and in all cases where I wanted to lessen the frequency of the heart's action, and in no instance has it failed.

in your published articles you have claimed much for it, but not more, nor as much as it really merits; for if there is anything in nature entitled to confidence to such a degree as to amount to a certainty, it is most undoubtedly the article. I hope the profession will universally adopt its use, and thereby secure for the science a triumph it so justly merits, in saving thousands from an untimely grave; and for you, I am certain the prayers of thousands will arise to a throne of grace, that you may be abundantly blessed in your labors.

Most respectfully yours,

WILLIAM ELIS, M. D.

## TREATMENT OF PUERPERAL CONVULSIONS.

WITH CLINICAL REPORTS BY

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There is nothing which excites more consideration among the relations of the lying-in woman than the supervention of puerperal eclampsia. When the practitioner is brought face to face with this affection, he can but feel that he has to encounter, a condition of great gravity—since Barnes and other able observers have put down the mortality as twenty-five per cent.

The treatment of puerperal convulsions has been variously construed by different obstetrical writers, but the method which found the most extended and continuous favor has been administration of sedatives and anaesthetics like the bromides and chloroform.

The treatment by the bromides and the inhalation of chloroform is a means which has been attended by a percentage of success, Barnes, Playfair and other good obstetricians prefer this means of treatment.

In fact, the mortality tables when treatment is either by bleeding or sedatives, seem to show almost identically the same rate. There is a means advocated by some writers—that of subjecting these patients to active purgation.

This treatment, however, has but limited employment, and it is not worth the while to point out its defects in this connection. The treatment which has the endorsement of Prof. Lusk and other able American and European obstetricians is by *Veratrum Viride*—Norwood.

In fact the introduction of *Veratrum Viride*—Norwood into the therapeutics of puerperal convulsions has been one of the greatest advances of this century. By this drug we are enabled to effect a larger percentage of cures than by any other method of treatment, and the administration of the drug is not attended with danger, as the other means are. Again when *Veratrum Viride*—Norwood is relied upon, we can depend upon getting our patient under the influence of the remedy quickly, and by carefully attending to our patient—giving the agent regularly, we shall find it possible and easy to keep off other seizures of eclampsia.

It is important in this connection to say that in prescribing *Veratrum Viride* we should use the pure Norwood tincture. This preparation made the reputation of this drug, and we should see that we get this.

The preparation I use is made by the Shaker Society, Mount Lebanon, N. Y. It is made according to the original method of Dr. Norwood, and should be given the preference in our prescriptions if we would expect satisfactory results at all times. Most certainly we cannot get results from many of the preparations on the market, and much time, even lives may be lost by depending on these. I therefore have only the Shaker Society's (*Tinct. Veratrum Viride*—Norwood) and then I feel sure of getting results. Norwood is blown in each

bottle of the tincture of *Veratrum Viride*. By this agent my percentage of recoveries has greatly increased and I feel that degree of confidence in the remedy which formerly I could not always have.

In the treatment of puerperal convulsions we should give this remedy in doses of from twenty drops to half a drachm, and repeat it every half hour until the patient's pulse is normal and the convulsions cease. This is Shoemaker's rule, and I have found it so correct that I have adopted it.

The Norwood tinct. *Veratrum Viride* (Shaker Society's) is entirely non-poisonous and its exhibition has never been followed by any evil or alarming results.

I may say in a word it is entirely non-poisonous, and does not produce emesis as many of the inferior products on the market do. Below I give in outline a few cases treated according to the method here advocated. These being only a few of many cases of which record is made in my case book.

Mrs. Blanche R., aged 22, primipare, was attended by a midwife. Her baby was born and the placenta delivered, and the old lady was about to go home when she was called to the bedside of her patient who was in a violent convulsion. The midwife applied cold to her head, gave a dose of brom. potass., after the first convulsion had gone off, and sent in haste for me. Upon my arrival, I found her just emerging from another convulsion. I at once put her on half drachm doses of tinct. *Veratrum Viride*—Norwood (Shaker Society's product) and this was repeated every half hour until the pulse became soft and full in volume and the patient became quiet. This result became manifest in about two hours. After this the patient took a dose when her pulse, or other indications showed the necessity of giving the agent. The nurse was to watch the patient and give her a dose of the *Veratrum* when her condition seemed to warrant. This patient got along with out further convulsions, and was up from childbed as soon as most women.

Mrs. Laura D. M., aged 28. This woman had borne several children, but had never had convulsions until now. She had bitten her tongue severely and had had several hard convulsions before I arrived. I had the tinct. *Veratrum Viride*—Norwood pushed until I got its relaxing effects and then gave it regularly for two days afterwards to maintain the effect.

The patient got along well, having no convulsions after the remedy had exerted its action. After the second day the patient got along so well that she took only occasional doses and was troubled with no more convulsions.

Mrs. I. W., age 40, was seized with convulsions soon after the coming on of the second stage of labor. She was given the tinct. *Veratrum Viride*—Norwood in full doses every half hour until its action was marked. Then her child was born. As a precaution she took the remedy for two days, and had no more convulsive seizures, and got up from childbed in the regular time.

Mrs. L. B., age 37, had been in convulsions for several hours but had had no medical attention. Her child was born but the placenta was not delivered. On the same treatment she speedily came to have no convulsions and made a complete recovery.

Mrs. Bernice W., age 31, multipara, developed convulsions two hours after complete delivery. On the treatment substantially the same as above she made a complete recovery, having no convulsions after the second hour of the administration of (Shaker Society's preparation) tinct. *Veratrum Viride*—Norwood.